

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
Celadon Recycling Solutions - Removal Polrep
Final Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region IV

Subject: POLREP #2
Final
Celadon Recycling Solutions

Lincolnton, NC
Latitude: 35.5154651 Longitude: -81.2438108

To: James Webster, USEPA R4 ERRPPB
Jim Bateson, NCDENR

From: Kenneth Rhame, FOSC
Date: 8/31/2021
Reporting Period: 8/31/2021

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	C4H1	Contract Number:
D.O. Number:		Action Memo Date:
Response Authority:	CERCLA	Response Type: Emergency
Response Lead:	PRP	Incident Category: Removal Action
NPL Status:	Non NPL	Operable Unit:
Mobilization Date:	1/14/2021	Start Date: 1/14/2021
Demob Date:	8/31/2021	Completion Date: 8/31/2021
CERCLIS ID:		RCRIS ID:
ERNS No.:		State Notification: NC DEQ / Div of Waste RCRA
FPN#:		Reimbursable Account #:

1.1.1 Incident Category

CERCLA - Emergency Response

1.1.2 Site Description

Commercial Tote Washing Facility

1.1.2.1 Location

288 Whitehouse Drive
Lincolnton, Lincoln County North Carolina

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

Release of unknown material to wetland, tributary to Carpenter Creek.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

A release of "white-colored" glue washdown water was observed flowing into a wetland area from a chemical tote process pit building.

The material contains unknown substances, and it is not known what chemicals are present in the tote wash pits. There are two pits in the building, one containing sludges, one containing primarily liquids.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) reports that inspectors discovered two releases at the Celadon Recycling Solutions (CRS) facility during a sampling mission. Celadon is a tote washing business located in Lincolnton, NC. One release was observed originating from the pit processing building. The pit processing building houses the treatment area where solids and liquids appear to be separated. As totes are received, the material is discharged to the pit processing building; treatment occurs then the liquids are pumped to the two-million-gallon lagoon. According to the NCDEQ, the lagoon is permitted but has a compromised liner and is not to be used until the liner is repaired/replaced and inspected by NCDEQ's Water Resources. According to Celadon staff, the lagoon has been receiving wastewater from tote washing operations.

The "spill" is believed to have originated from the equalization tank (a 300,000-gallon steel tank containing glue washdown water). A valve is believed to have been "cracked" open from either employee error or debris blocking valve closure, causing the equalization tank to discharge to an underground pipe that runs to the pit process building. The pits overflowed, allowing the glue wash-water to flow out of the building and run

across the asphalt pavement entering the wetland. Celadon estimates that 500 to 1,000 gallons were released. This release impacted a wetland area that discharges to a Carpenter Creek.

Another release was discovered near a tote storage area. The material was blue in color, ran down a storm conveyance drainage ditch for approximately 50 feet.

U.S. EPA Region 4 On-Scene Coordinator conducted an emergency response to provide oversight of the response and cleanup.

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

CRS hired CERT Environmental to conduct a response. CERT utilized vacuum trucks to recover the spilled material. Approximately 7,000 gallons were recovered. The material was placed back into the equalization tank; some material was contained in a solidification pit. The drainage conveyance ditch was excavated, soils were placed in a roll-off box for containment.

2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) regulated waste may have been received by Celadon Recycling Solutions (CRS). NCDEQ RCRA issued an Immediate Action Notice of Violation. There are approximately 2,000 totes that have not been disposed of at the facility. The municipal wastewater treatment plant has revoked the permit, and the line has been disconnected.

The two-million-gallon lagoon may have been receiving tote wash wastewater - some of which may contain hazardous substances (PCE, chromium). Some nearby residents utilize private wells.

The released material was contained and recovered.

The municipal waste water treatment facility continues to deny access to the city sewer for previous violations.

Celadon was evicted from the property by the property owner for their involvement in mismanaging the material being stored, treated and disposed of at the facility.

NC DEQ RCRA is working with the property owner to identify, characterize and properly dispose of the remaining material on-site.

NC DEQ Water Resources is working with the property owner coordinating proper management of the lagoon and the waste water that remains on site.

2.1.4 Progress Metrics

Waste Stream	Medium	Quantity	Manifest #	Treatment	Disposal

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

The municipal waste water treatment facility continues to deny access to the city sewer for previous violations.

Celadon was evicted from the property by the property owner for their involvement in mismanaging the material being stored, treated and disposed of at the facility.

NC DEQ RCRA is working with the property owner to identify, characterize and properly dispose of the remaining material on-site.

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

NC DEQ has taken the lead to oversee removal activities at the Site.

2.2.1.2 Next Steps

2.2.2 Issues

NC DEQ will keep EPA informed of site activities and will submit a referral for a time-critical removal if needed in the future. Otherwise, it is anticipated that the property owner will conduct the removal with NC DEQ oversight.

2.3 Logistics Section

No information available at this time.

2.4 Finance Section

No information available at this time.

2.5 Other Command Staff

No information available at this time.

3. Participating Entities

No information available at this time.

4. Personnel On Site

No information available at this time.

5. Definition of Terms

No information available at this time.

6. Additional sources of information

No information available at this time.

7. Situational Reference Materials

No information available at this time.